

FRENCH MISSION TO DISCUSS WAR ARRIVES SAFELY

Headed by Viviani With Joffre, the Grizzled Old Hero of the Battle of the Marne, Coming Next in Order and Many Other Prominent Officials in List

STATE DEPARTMENT TELLS OF THEIR LANDING TO-DAY

The British Commission in Washington Awaits the Arrival of the French Before Beginning Formal Conference With the United States on War Measures

Washington, D. C., April 24.—The department of state announces the safe arrival on this continent to-day of the French commission.

At the head of the mission is Rene Viviani, minister of justice and vice-president of the council of ministers. The other members of the party are Marshal Joseph Jacques Cessaire Joffre, commander-in-chief of the French armies until last December and now military adviser of the government; Vice-Admiral P. L. A. Chocheprat, dean of the French admirals and submarine expert; Marquis Pierre deChambroun, a member of the Chamber of Deputies; M. Simon, inspector of finances; M. Hovelacque, inspector-general of public instructions, and Surgeon Major Dreyfus.

The commission arrived early this morning on a speedy steamer of the French line which was conveyed across the Atlantic. The vessels were met off the coast by American torpedo boat destroyers and escorted to port.

Marked Honor to British.

Great Britain's war commissioners are receiving every mark of honor and courtesy within the gift of the government.

Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour, formally presented by Secretary Lansing to President Wilson in the morning, was the guest of honor last night at the most notable dinner given at the White House in a generation. During the day he was presented to Vice-President Marshall at the capitol, luncheon with Ambassador Jusserand at the French embassy, and received cards or calls from many prominent persons, including former Secretary Bryan.

Meanwhile Lieut. Gen. Bridges and other British army officers called on Secretary Baker, Maj. Gen. Scott, chief of staff, and war department officials; Admiral DeChair and his naval aides called on Secretary Daniels, Admiral Benson and other navy department officials; and Lord Curzon, governor of the Bank of England, called on Secretary McAdoo at the treasury department.

The conferences so far, with the enthusiasm that the people of the capital have shown, and the courtesies and cordialities extended by the officials, have taken the British commission completely by surprise. Mr. Balfour, after three quarters of an hour's conversation with President Wilson, remarked enthusiastically that his trip had been justified by that meeting alone.

All during the day members of the commission exclaimed over the warmth of the welcome, especially on their arrival Sunday. As if to make it more perfect, Washington just at this time is blossoming into the full richness of its spring days.

The British commission announced that its purpose in coming to this country was purely one of co-operative service and gratitude and that from now on the direction of the conferences would rest largely with the American government. At the same time, American officials convinced the British by the warmth and cordiality of their reception that this country appreciates England's courtesy in sending such distinguished spokesmen and is fully dedicated to every possible effort against the common foe.

Mr. Balfour, it was also stated, will make several public statements during his stay as to the English point of view, and will attempt to remove any misconceptions he may find existing. Vice-President Marshall invited him to address the Senate, but it is improbable he will appear before Congress unless perhaps with the French Minister of Justice Viviani. Arrangements are being made for him to see members of the press Wednesday. Gen. Bridges will be interviewed to-day and Lord Curzon on Thursday.

Last night's dinner at the White House was the climax of an eventful day. Mr. Balfour, British Ambassador Spring-Rice, and all the ranking members of the British commission were invited to meet the president and Mrs. Wilson, the members of the cabinet, Chief Justice White, the advisory committee of the Council of National Defense, Secretary Tamm and Miss Helen Woodrow Wilson Bones, cousin of the president. At the same time other members of the commission were being entertained at dinner at the 16th street mansion occupied by Mr. Balfour's immediate party.

BOND BILL SIGNED.

Pres. Wilson's Signature Authorizes \$7,000,000,000 War Loan.

Washington, D. C., April 24.—President Wilson to-day signed the war bond

GERMAN AUTHORITIES REPRESS STRIKERS

The situation behind the German lines remains dubious and uncertain. The little news that trickles across the frontier indicates that the authorities have gained the upper hand over the strikers by drastic methods of militarizing the ammunition industry and forcing the strike leaders into the fighting ranks.

It is too early and information is too meagre to say whether these stern measures of repression have definitely crushed the startling storm of discontent which swept over the German empire.

The only news from Austria in some days is to the effect that the Pan-German leaders emerged victors in the struggle for the control of the government. This news is vague and by a roundabout route, and reliable information of conditions in the dual monarchy is lacking.

KAISER WAS URGED TO QUIT THRONE?

Rome Newspaper Claims to Have Corroboration of Statements in Spanish Papers That William Turned Pale.

Rome, via Paris, April 24.—Corriere d'Italia, a clerical organ, declares it is able to confirm reports published in Spanish newspapers that the immediate following of the German emperor is exerting pressure on him to abdicate. The papers say that at a recent meeting of the Hohenzollern family one member, bolder than the rest, intimated that the emperor might save the situation by following the example of Emperor Nicholas.

The German monarch is reported to have turned pale and after observing that the general opinion was against him left the room, muttering: "We shall see." The same evening he summoned another family council. The chancellor and some of the ministers were present but whatever passed remains unknown.

REFUGEE SHIP WAS TORPEDOED

Russian Socialists Are Much Agitated Over German "Hypocrites"—Latter's Promises Are But "Empty Words."

London, April 24.—Dispatches from Petrograd to-day state that the Russian Socialists are greatly exercised over the sinking by a German submarine of the steamer Zara which was taking home a number of Russian refugees. The Zara was torpedoed in northern waters on April 13.

The official organ of the council of labor deputies in Petrograd, commenting upon the sinking of the Zara, says: "This heavy blow right at the heart of the revolution cannot pass without its effect. The revolutionary democracy must reply with a blow at the center from which the torpedo was sent. Democracy must regard the murder as proof that the rulers of Germany are base hypocrites and that their promises not to harm the cause of Russian liberty were empty words."

NORWEGIAN SHIPS ARE SACRIFICED

One Was Attacked by Submarine in the North Sea and the Other in the Atlantic Ocean.

London, April 24.—It is officially announced in Norway, says a Central News dispatch from Christiania, that the Norwegian steamer Reiebeen has been sunk by a German submarine in the North Sea and the Norwegian steamer Skjold in the Atlantic.

GREENE SPOKE FOR DRAFT.

Vermont Representative Said It Was Only Effective Method.

Washington, D. C., April 24.—With both houses of Congress debating the war army bill yesterday it became more than ever apparent that there is no fight over whether a great army shall be raised, the only question being what strength can be mustered by opponents of the administration's selective draft law.

In the Senate passage of the general staff bill virtually without change is regarded as certain; on the House side President Wilson's supporters also are confident of success though the contest there will be bitter. Discussion in the Senate may continue until Saturday, but the House, under a tentative agreement for 18 hours of general debate, probably will be ready to vote by Thursday.

Most of the speeches in the House were in favor of the administration plans, after Representative Dent, chairman of the military committee, had made an opening statement earnestly supporting the bill as amended by his committee to authorize calls for volunteers, with provision for applying the draft only if the volunteer system fails. Representative Kahn of California, ranking Republican of the committee, appeared in the unique position of spokesman for the president and leader of the administration forces.

Representative McKenzie of Illinois, Cragg of Pennsylvania, Olney of Massachusetts, Lunn of New York, Greene of Vermont, Adamson of Georgia and others spoke for the draft as the only effective method of raising the army needed.

During the debate in the Senate, Senator Wadsworth, who warmly defended universal service, said there was no comparison between the Civil War times and present conditions.

"In 1861 both sides rushed volunteering," he said. "We have time now to build up a carefully constructed, effective army. Fortunately for the United States the British and American fleets protect us from invasion, giving us time to build a real army, avoiding the mistakes of other nations. We can thus show the world that we are to be offensive in this war to its bitter end."

TWO VILLAGES ARE WRESTED FROM GERMANS

Beaucamp and Villers-Plouich Captured Last Night and Gen. Haig's Army Penetrated to St. Quentin Canal at One Place South of the Bapaume-Cambrai Road

OVER 1,500 PRISONERS WERE TAKEN MONDAY

Further Progress Was Made by the Offensive East of Monchy and Near Roex, While Positions Gained on Monday Were Maintained, Says the Official Statement

London, April 24.—The British gained ground on a wide front last night south of the Bapaume-Cambrai road. They reached the St. Quentin canal at one point. Further north the villages of Beaucamp and Villers-Plouich were captured.

The position gained on the French front yesterday, says the official statement to-day, "were maintained and further progress was made east of Monchy and near Roex. More than 1,500 prisoners were taken yesterday and many more are coming in."

The official British report last night was as follows:

"There was heavy and continuous fighting throughout the day on both banks of the Scarpe and important enemy positions were gained by our troops. A marked feature of the day's operations was the frequent violent enemy counter attacks, in which he suffered heavy losses."

"We captured the village of Gavrelle and the enemy's defenses for two and a half miles to the south of the village, as far as Roex cemetery."

"On the right bank of the Scarpe our troops fought their way forward on a wide front south and east of Monchy le Preux and captured Guemappe."

"The number of prisoners taken has not yet been ascertained, but is known to exceed considerably 1,000."

"We also made progress southwest of Lens, in the neighborhood of the Souchez river."

"There was great activity in the air yesterday, in which our aircraft were entirely successful. In the air fighting six airplanes were brought down, crashed. Fifteen others were driven down out of control. In one engagement a hostile formation of eight machines was attacked by two of our airplanes, which brought down two hostile machines and drove down a third out of control."

"Besides those destroyed in the air fighting, one German airplane was shot down by anti-aircraft guns. In addition, seven German kite balloons were destroyed yesterday. Seven of our machines are missing."

BRITISH FAILED IN ATTEMPT TO BREAK THROUGH

But Berlin Admits That Haig's Forces Advanced on Cambrai-Arras Road and That They Hold Guemappe.

Berlin, via London, April 24.—Only on the Cambrai-Arras road did the British gain ground yesterday, says the official statement to-day. The ruin of Guemappe remained in the hands of the British. An attempt made by the British to break through the German line near Arras, the statement says, failed with tremendous losses.

16 LOCOMOTIVES AND 224 CARS BRITISH BOOTY

Advancing Rapidly After the Turks in Mesopotamia, the British Army Seized Samarra Station.

London, April 24.—The Turks in Mesopotamia have been driven from their position between Samarra and Irbatlat, the war office announced to-day. The British, pursuing them, occupied Samarra station yesterday, capturing sixteen locomotives and 224 railway trucks.

MORE BOYS JOIN NAVY.

Eight Sent from Burlington Last Night to Newport.

Burlington, April 24.—After a slump of three days, the navy recruiting office in this city yesterday enlisted eight men, all of whom were last night sent to the training station at Newport, R. I., to enter the United States navy as apprentice seamen. A telegram from Washington received at the main recruiting office in this city yesterday urgently calls for more machinists and firemen. At least 20 per cent of the men of these ratings are at present needed and the opportunities for advancement are of course much better. The requirements of these ratings are greater and the age limit is from 21 to 30 years.

The men enlisted yesterday are George J. Rios of 15 Center street, this city, Leonard H. Paine of South Royalton, Paige E. Maxfield of Cambridge, Wilfred M. Lowell of East Shoreham, Orville A. Gherault of Williamstown, Frederick E. Lavette and William J. Parker of Shelburne and Roy Nisbet of Westport, N. Y.

SOLDIER SHOT NEAR SWANTON

Private Arthur J. Sweeney of Co. B of St. Albans the Victim

PRIV. MCCONNELL UNDER ARREST

It Is Said That the Shooting Was an Accident

St. Albans, April 24.—Private Arthur J. Sweeney of Company B, 1st infantry, stationed at Swanton, was shot and instantly killed at 6:30 o'clock last evening, the bullet coming from a gun in the hands of Private J. M. McConnell, also of Company B. It is said that the discharge of the gun was accidental, but it is probable that a superior officer, probably Major Walter O. Cooley of Brattleboro, who was in command of the detachment, in which Company B is included, will hold an investigation.

The body of Private Sweeney was brought here this morning, accompanied by a small detail, and was taken to the young man's home, where live his wife and one child. Private Sweeney was 29 years of age. The arrangements for a funeral have not been made, but it is likely that the service will be of a military nature.

The shooting took place near the plant of the International Explosives company near Swanton. Private McConnell was returning from his supper and was releasing Private C. E. Curtis, who was walking in the rear of the plant. Private Sweeney was near the spot where the guards were changing, being also on his way back from supper. It is said that Private Sweeney was not a member of the old or new relief. Furthermore, it appears that there had been some mix-up about guns, that Private Curtis had gone on guard with Private McConnell's gun and that Private McConnell had Private Curtis' gun and that when they changed guard they changed guns also.

The bullet from the weapon, said to have been in the hands of Private McConnell, entered the body of Private Sweeney near the breastbone, in line with the heart, and came out under the right shoulderblade. Private Sweeney was instantly killed. The body was removed to undertakers rooms in Swanton and prepared for burial.

Private Sweeney served with Co. B on the Mexican border. Private McConnell joined the company at the outbreak of the war with Germany. He is married. Corporal W. A. Ross was present when the guard was changed and will probably be an important witness at the investigation. Private McConnell has been placed under military arrest.

TO HELP RED CROSS

Barre's Italian-Born Citizens Plan a Celebration.

To the exercises incident to the raising of the American flag in Barre, a plan which had its inception among Italian-born American citizens of this city, it has been decided to add a celebration for the benefit of the Red Cross, the latter to be held on the evening of the day on which the colors are elevated. In a statement made to-day the sponsors for the patriotic gathering proposed by the committee said:

"The Italian people back of the movement for the flag raising have decided to hold a celebration in favor of the Red Cross. In order to give more scope to the celebration, a flag will be raised and all persons will be asked to participate in the exercises. Any organization or any individual of any nationality in sympathy with the initiative taken by the group is asked to communicate with the secretary, M. Gariboldi, care of the Italian Athletic club."

"Un gruppo di Italiani ha deciso di fare una festa a favore della Croce Rossa. Per dare più importanza alla solennita verra innalzata una bandiera in Barre. Qualunque organizzazione o individuo che voglia appoggiare questa iniziativa si rivolga a M. Gariboldi, I. A. club."

OPENED WITH RECEPTION.

New England Order of Protection Convention in Burlington.

Burlington, April 24.—A reception was given in the Eastern Star rooms at the Masonic temple last evening by Vermont lodge, New England Order of Protection, of this city to the grand lodge and supreme officers of the order. The reception was followed by a musical and literary program, after which refreshments were served and dancing enjoyed.

The grand officers and delegates to the lodge were welcomed by Rev. C. J. Staples, warden of Vermont lodge. Response was made by Grand Warden T. J. Bagley of Bellows Falls. Others who responded were Supreme Warden A. W. Willis, Supreme Vice-Warden Daniel Sullivan, Supreme Secretary D. M. Frye and Supreme Treasurer John P. Sanborn, all of Boston. There were vocal selections by Miss Dixie Hatch and instrumental numbers by Mrs. Lottie Van Steinberg and F. J. Preston.

CARRY GERMAN WOUNDED.

On Hospital Ships Following Threat of Berlin Government.

Paris, April 24.—Contrary to all the rules of international law and humanity, says an official note issued by the government last night, "The Germans have announced that they have decided that they will torpedo all hospital ships without warning."

"Under these conditions the French government gives notice that German prisoners will be embarked on these vessels."

Waterbury, April 24.—Mark Dillon, who has been confined to his bed by an attack of infantile paralysis, is now dangerously ill with pneumonia.

FAVOR PROHIBITION AND HOME GUARDS

Vermont Committee of Public Safety Adopts Resolution for Former and Discusses Latter in a Long Session.

The state committee on public safety held a meeting at the State House at Montpelier last evening, about 30 members being present and holding a session which lasted until after midnight.

A resolution was adopted urging the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of liquors during war time, so as to conserve food materials, maintain precision of action and efficiency of men and service and lessen the suffering of women and children.

It appeared to be the sense of the meeting that home guards should be organized in the towns of the state, and it was suggested that these home guards establish and maintain recruiting stations. The local organizations could have the recruits examined by local physicians and if appearing physically fit they could then be sent to Fort Ethan Allen at the expense of the state. If they are rejected at the military post, the state would pay the expenses back to the home town. Assistant-General Lee S. Tillotson in this connection said that the regiment needs 450 men to bring it up to peace strength. It is probable that the committee will urge the adoption of the plan outlined above.

A committee consisting of Fred A. Howland, Col. Ira L. Reeves, Frank E. Howe and Rev. Fraser Metzger was appointed to handle the publicity work.

Frederick G. Habbitt of the Bellows Falls Chamber of Commerce told of the work that organization was doing in the way of increasing food production. A canvass of the town is being made to see how many workmen are willing to work half a day each week on farms and in gardens and how many plants and business men are willing to allow their employees to work that half day with pay.

Willis N. Cady of Middlebury has been appointed by the governor a delegate to the federal trade commerce meeting to be held at Washington April 30.

BOARD OF TRADE COMMITTEES

Named by Directors—Henry A. Phelps Again Secretary.

Directors of the Barre Board of Trade met last evening and transacted their complement of the annual business considered at the yearly meeting of the members last week. Henry A. Phelps was re-elected to serve as secretary, although there is talking of securing a paid secretary, who shall devote all of his time to the work of the organization. If enough financial support can be obtained, this end may be attained, and a committee which the president was authorized to appoint last week is to make a canvass. Another committee appointed is to bring in recommendations for another series of better acquaintance tours the coming summer or for a substitute that will result as profitably as the venture in 1916.

The standing committees for 1917 are announced as follows:

Legislative—C. W. Melcher, N. D. Phelps and S. Hollister Jackson.

Arbitration—John C. Booth, L. O. Tracy and C. S. Andrews.

Advisory—F. E. Langley, A. P. Abbott and J. Ward Carver.

Educational—C. H. White, O. K. Hollister, H. H. Jackson, F. A. Walker and L. R. Hutchinson.

Electric power—D. M. Barclay, Alex. Duncan, J. P. Corskie, J. T. Marrior, J. B. Magnaghi.

Foreign trade—James Mackay, William Barclay, Guy R. Varnum.

Hotel—F. D. Ladd, D. M. Miles, H. G. Bennett.

Municipal affairs—H. C. Ladd, J. F. Higgins, G. H. Pape.

Statistics and information—James Mackay, H. G. Woodruff, J. G. MacFarlane, G. G. G.

Membership—George E. Bond, Stephen Rizzi, George Kent, N. B. Ballard, C. B. Gladding.

Meetings and reception—W. G. Reynolds, D. J. Morse, J. V. Rowen, E. M. Tobin, A. P. Abbott, Armando Comoli, H. L. Campbell, O. C. Averill.

Mercantile affairs—A. C. Moore, W. D. Smith, H. A. Richardson.

Manufacturing—F. D. Sartell, Waldron Shield, H. D. Stevens.

New enterprises—H. F. Cutler, B. W. Hooker, C. F. Miller.

Publicity—F. H. Rogers, A. P. Abbott, H. P. Himman, Dean H. Perry, H. S. Parks.

Transportation and railroad—J. F. Higgins, R. G. Robinson, Mayor E. C. Glysson.

Taxation and insurance—R. Lucina, R. S. Currier, Frank K. Beard and Dan. A. Perry.

Ways and means—G. R. Varnum, J. P. Corskie, F. G. Howland, C. M. Willey, Charles H. Wishart.

MARRIAGE AT WATERBURY.

Inez E. Douglas and William U. Lee the Parties.

Waterbury, April 24.—At the Congregational parsonage yesterday afternoon, Inez E. Douglas and William U. Lee were united in marriage by Rev. W. L. Boicourt, the single ring service being used. Both parties formerly lived here, the bride living at the home of George W. Randall on Main street. Mr. Lee was employed at the inn and the Vermont state hospital. Latterly they have been living in Montpelier, where the groom is employed as a barber. They will be at home after May 6 at 66 Ridge street.

PUBLIC WILL HAVE TO PAY.

If Anthracite Operators Have to Pay More Wages.

New York, April 24.—Representatives of 170,000 anthracite miners yesterday formally presented to a committee of operators a request for an increase of 20 per cent in wages "proportioned in such manner and way as to be helpful and constructive."

A statement issued at the end of the joint meeting, which lasted all afternoon, said that the committee of operators "took the matter under consideration."

To grant the wage increase requested, one of the operators was quoted as saying last night, would mean an increase of 50 cents a ton in the retail price of coal.

IS ADJUDGED ALIEN ENEMY

Max Wolff of Saxtons River Ordered Confined Till Further Notice

HE SHOUTED, "TO FIGHT WITH UNITED STATES"

While at the Same Time He Displayed German Colors on His Back

Brattleboro, April 24.—Max Wolff, aged 31, of Saxtons River, a German, was held by Judge Harland B. Howe to-day to be an alien enemy, to have violated President Wilson's proclamation and to have violated the Vermont statutes by making remarks tending to create disturbance of the peace. Wolff was ordered confined until further order of the court, the place where he shall be confined to be determined this afternoon.

The court found that Wolff said on April 12: "To hell with the United States. I belong to a good country," and he displayed the German colors on his vest. The evidence also showed that Wolff stopped work in his employer's garden because he would not help England while the Germans were starving. Dist. Atty. Bullard of Burlington appeared for the government. Wolff declined to have counsel unless he could have a German lawyer.

BIG COUNTY MEETING.

To Discuss Crop Raising Will Be Held at Montpelier.

The Washington County Farm bureau, through the executive committee, and in co-operation with the agricultural extension service of the state, and the state committee of the public safety, has made arrangements for a mass meeting of all people in the county, who are interested in doing their bit to help our nation in its effort to produce more food, to feed our people as well as our allies. The meeting will be held at the city hall building (Memorial room) in Montpelier, Saturday afternoon at 1:30, April 28. The speakers will be men who are acquainted with our national, as well as local, problems, and who will be able to lay out some definite plans whereby each can do his or her part to help the United States in this critical period.

Dean J. H. Hills of the University of Vermont will report upon the national conference of agriculturists, which he recently attended, giving an idea of what we, as a nation, are "up against" in regard to food supplies. A number of the state committee on food production and conservation, Rev. D. J. O'Sullivan of St. Albans, will tell us of the state organization and outline ways in which you can fill a place and do your part to help.

Senator F. C. Bancroft will speak from the standpoint of the farmer, and as a farmer himself, should be able to give you some positive suggestions along this line. The county agricultural agent, F. H. Abbott, will be present to answer questions in regard to crops and fertilizers.

This is a call to people in all stations. If you are a farmer, you should come and get a suggestion as to how you can improve your crops or possibly raise more, and to confer upon the labor question. If you are a merchant, you should come to get ideas of how you can help your customers and your clerk. If you are a tradesman, granitecutter, machinist or laborer, you should come to pick up definite information about the extra crop you are going to raise in your garden this year, or possibly to find other ways in which you can help to produce more food.

It is your duty to do all in your power to support this movement and you should come to this meeting in Montpelier, Saturday, to learn about it, and where you can put in your help to best advantage.

The Committee.

DR. LAMB NOT GUILTY.

Verdict Was Returned in County Court Case.

Arguments in the case of State vs. Dr. M. D. Lamb of Barre were completed late yesterday afternoon in Washington county court and Judge Wilson this forenoon charged the jury, which retired before 10 o'clock.

After being out five hours and ten minutes the jury returned a verdict of not guilty.

Entries were made to-day in the following cases as the result of a review of the court calendar: Town of Plainfield, apt. vs. town of Marshfield, motion for judgment for defendant for costs; Hattie Wheelock vs. estate of Omar Wheelock; Robert Wheelock, adm., vs. continued; E. L. Smith & Co., adm., vs. Barton and H. J. Slayton, hearing after supreme court; E. D. Bartlett et al., vs. Antonio Bonazzi, discontinued without costs; Quarry Savings Bank and Trust Co., vs. Charles Bianchi & Sons, settlors and discontinued; Julia Griffin vs. town of Waterbury, settled; E. H. Bulkeley vs. Orlo Neilson, settled; C. O. Haselbalg vs. C. D. Wheelock, judgment on default against principal defendant.

BURIAL AT NORTHFIELD FALLS.

Funeral of Blanche Moorcroft Was Held at North Montpelier.

The funeral of Blanche Moorcroft, daughter of the late William and Ann Moorcroft, was held Sunday, April 22 at North Montpelier, Rev. J. B. Reardon of Barre officiating. The deceased was born in West Montpelier May 25, 1891, and leaves to mourn her loss three sisters and one brother, Mrs. W. G. Nye and Mrs. Moorcroft of North Montpelier, Mrs. W. A. Bradford and Lena Moorcroft of Barre, also several nieces and nephews.

Although she had long been ill, the end came suddenly. The interment was Monday in the family lot at Northfield Falls. The floral tributes were many and beautiful.